

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior listings of the claims with the following:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16. (Canceled).

Claim 17. (Previously Presented): A method of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising administering an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to a subject in need thereof to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 18. (Original): The method according to claim 17 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 19. (Original): The method according to claim 18 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω 9).

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a

medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinozporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting from said culture.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented): A method of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising providing a composition or a food or drink containing an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to a subject in need thereof to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 25. (Original): The method according to claim 24 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 26. (Original): The method according to claim 25 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω 9).

Claim 28. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinosporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said a food or drink are functional foods, nutrient supplements, specified health foods or foods for old people.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn): A method of preparing an ameliorating agent for liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising using an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to prepare the ameliorating agent for liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 33. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 34. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 33 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 35. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω 9).

Claim 36. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinosporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claim 37. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 38. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 39. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A method of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid for the preparation of a composition or preparing a food or drink having an effect of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising admixing an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component in the food or drink, in an amount effective to ameliorate a liver disease associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 40 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω 9).

Claim 43. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*,

genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinozporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 46. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said a food or drink are functional foods, nutrient supplements, specified health foods or foods for old people.